



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/837,413	04/18/2001	Terrence Ross O'Brien	ROC920010124US1	7612

7590

07/31/2003

Gero G. McClellan
Thomason, Moser & Patterson, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056-6582

EXAMINER

HAMILTON, MONPLAISIR G

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 07/31/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicant N .

09/837,413

Applicant(s)

O'BRIEN ET AL.

Examiner

Monplaisir G Hamilton

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period of Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 17-20 objected to because of the following informalities: improper dependency, examiner suggests changing 1 to 16. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Referring to Claims 1-20

The claimed data structure is not tangibly embodied on a computer-readable medium. Data structures not claimed as embodied in computer-readable media are descriptive material per se. Furthermore the claimed data structure is a collection of fields and does not exhibit any functional interrelationship with the way in which a computing process is performed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US 2002/0116205 issued to Ankireddipally et al.

Referring to Claim 1:

Ankireddipally discloses a data structure configured as an interface definition of a message format of a particular eCommerce transaction type, comprising: protocol information identifying a protocol and the particular eCommerce transaction type (page 6, paragraph 0047, lines 5-15); request data format information identifying a request message format for the particular eCommerce transaction type, wherein the request message format comprises a plurality of input fields (page 5, paragraph 0043, lines 3-11); and input field information identifying at least a portion of the plurality of input fields (page 6, paragraph 0045, lines 3-10).

Art Unit: 2172

Referring to Claim 2:

Ankireddipally discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 1. Ankireddipally further discloses input field information identifies a physical Location of each input field of at least the portion of the plurality of input fields (page 8, 0065, lines 1-14).

Referring to Claim 3:

Ankireddipally discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 1. Ankireddipally further discloses the protocol is selected from the group comprising cXML and mXML (page 2, paragraph 0009, lines 7-10).

Referring to Claim 4:

Ankireddipally discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 1. Ankireddipally further discloses the transaction type is a purchase order (page 2, paragraph 0009, lines 1-5).

Referring to Claim 5:

Ankireddipally discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 1. Ankireddipally further discloses a total number of fields of the plurality of input fields identified by the input field information is less than all of the plurality of input fields (page 8, paragraph 0065, lines 15-25).

Referring to Claim 6:

Ankireddipally discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 1. Ankireddipally further discloses the plurality of input fields includes input fields for at least two different request types

Art Unit: 2172

and wherein the input field information represents only a first request type (page 7, paragraph 0059, lines 3-8).

Referring to Claim 7:

Ankireddipally discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 1. Ankireddipally further discloses the protocol information further identifies a sub-transaction type (page 7, paragraph 0060, lines 9-15).

Referring to Claim 8:

Ankireddipally discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 1. Ankireddipally further discloses the eCommerce transaction type is selected from a group comprising of a purchase order, a change purchase order, a remote catalog shopping request, an invoice request and a shopping basket content request (page 2, paragraph 0009, lines 1-5).

Referring to Claim 9:

Ankireddipally discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 1. Ankireddipally further discloses the input field information comprises a corresponding input field corresponding to each field of the portion of the plurality of input fields (page 8, paragraph 0065, lines 5-25).

Referring to Claim 10:

Ankireddipally discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 9. Ankireddipally further discloses a name of at least one field of the portion of the plurality of input fields is different than

Art Unit: 2172

a name of the corresponding input field corresponding to the at least one field (page 10, paragraph 0074, line 5-13).

Referring to Claim 11:

Ankireddipally discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 1. Ankireddipally further discloses response data format information identifying a response message format for the particular eCommerce transaction type, wherein the response message format comprises a plurality of output fields; and output field information identifying at least a portion of the plurality of output fields (page 8, paragraph 0063, line 1-8).

Referring to Claim 12:

Ankireddipally discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 11. Ankireddipally further discloses a total number of fields of the plurality of output fields identified by the output field information is less than all of the plurality of output fields (page 8, paragraph 0063, line 15-25).

Referring to Claim 13:

Ankireddipally discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 11. Ankireddipally further discloses the plurality of output fields includes output fields for at least two different request types and wherein the output field information represents only a first request type (page 7, paragraph 0059, lines 3-8).

Art Unit: 2172

Referring to Claim 14:

Ankireddipally discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 1. Ankireddipally further discloses the input field information and the output field information is configured for mapping to an application access method, wherein the application access method is configured to describe an interface to an application (page 9, paragraph 0068, line 1-10).

Referring to Claim 15:

Ankireddipally discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 14. Ankireddipally further discloses the application access method is selected from a program call access method, a java access method and a queue application access method (paragraph page 6, 0049, lines 1-15).

Referring to Claim 16:

Ankireddipally discloses a data structure configured as an interface definition of a request message format and a response message format of a particular eCommerce transaction type, comprising: protocol information identifying a protocol and a transaction type (page 6, paragraph 0047, lines 5-15); request data format information identifying the request message format, wherein the request message format comprises a plurality of input fields; and input field information identifying at least a portion of the plurality of input fields (page 5, paragraph 0043, lines 3-11), wherein the plurality of input fields includes input fields for at least two different request types and wherein the input field information represents only a first request type (page 7, paragraph 0059, line 1-9; page 8, paragraph 0065, lines 15-25); response data format information identifying a response message format, wherein the response message format comprises a

Art Unit: 2172

plurality of output fields (page 7, paragraph 0054, lines 5-10); and output field information identifying at least a portion of the plurality of output fields, wherein the plurality of output fields includes output fields for the at least two different request types and wherein the output field information represents only the first request type (page 8, paragraph 0063, line 1-10; page 8, paragraph 0065, line 15-20).

Referring to Claim 17:

Ankireddipally discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 1. Ankireddipally further discloses the transaction type is a purchase order (page 2, paragraph 0009, lines 1-5).

Referring to Claim 18:

Ankireddipally discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 1. Ankireddipally further discloses the input field information identifies a physical location of each input field of at least the portion of the plurality of input fields in the request message format (page 7, paragraph 0054, lines 1-8; page 8, 0065, lines 1-14) and the output field information identifies a physical location of each output field of at least the portion of the plurality of output fields in the response message format (page 8, paragraph 0063, lines 1-10).

Referring to Claim 19:

Ankireddipally discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 1. Ankireddipally further discloses the input field information and the output field information is configured for mapping to an application access method, wherein the application access method is configured to describe

Art Unit: 2172

an interface to an application configured to process the particular eCommerce transaction type (page 9, paragraph 0068, line 1-10).

Referring to Claim 20:

Ankireddipally discloses the limitations as discussed in Claim 1. Ankireddipally further discloses the input field information comprises a corresponding input field corresponding to each field of the portion of the plurality of input fields (page 8, 0065, lines 1-14) and wherein the output field information comprises a corresponding output field corresponding to each field of the portion of the plurality of output fields (page 7, paragraph 0054, lines 6-10; page 8, paragraph 0063, lines 1-10).

Prior Art

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US 20020128946 issued to Chehade, Fadi B. et al. Chehade discloses one embodiment of the invention provides a framework for facilitating business processes between multiple trading participants. To utilize the infrastructure each trading participant connects to a centralized process management platform. Once a trading participant connects to the centralized process management platform the trading participant becomes a member of an electronic trading community. Members of the electronic trading community may utilize the process management platform as a conduit for sending and receiving business process data, and the process management platform can monitor and manage the flow of business process messages

and data in order to facilitate and enable successful completion of business processes. Thus, the process management platform acts as an intermediary for each of the parties involved in a particular business process.

US 20020111879 issued to Melero, Antonio et al. Melero discloses an electronic commerce method and system for selecting products and creating purchase orders via computer network. The system consists of at least one user operated client computer, and a merchant operated server computer system that processes requests from the client, creates purchase orders, and manages multiple web browser windows within the client. The system features four web browser windows representing four basic functions performed repeatedly and iteratively in purchasing products: "catalog window", "product window", "information window", and "order window". The system further provides a method to control which window the server output is displayed in to maintain system integrity. The system and method enables the user to switch from one window to another to access any one of the purchasing functions in a single action.

US 20010047311 issued to Singh, Bhavesh. Singh discloses a system and method providing comprehensive, end-to-end collaboration and transaction functionality for a worldwide market for products and services. Buyers, suppliers and distributors are electronically connected, via a communications network for the procurement and delivery of both standard and custom products or services. Purchase orders are received at an electronic repository connected with the network, such as a website and associated memory. In response to the received purchase orders, one or more quotes are received at the repository. One method

Art Unit: 2172

includes aggregating buyers based on a purchase order commonality, while another method includes aggregating suppliers based on capacity similarities. After a match is made and processed, a procurement transaction is executed between a buyer and one or more suppliers via electronic communication over the communications network.

Art Unit: 2172

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Monplaisir G Hamilton whose telephone number is 1703-305-5116. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8:00 am - 4:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y Vu can be reached on 1703-305-4393. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 1703-746-7239 for regular communications and 1703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 1703-305-3900.

Monplaisir Hamilton
July 25, 2003


JEAN M. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER